

AMERICAN
COMICS GROUP
ACG

AMERICA'S FIRST *and* GREATEST SUPERNATURAL!

ACG

No. 41-
MARCH

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

10¢

LONG HAVE I
AWAITED THIS
MOMENT... WHEN
ANOTHER DEATH SHALL
SPELL
REVENGE!

HOLY SMOKE!
THAT THING'S
GOING TO...
KILL HER!

Can a
THEATRE
BE CURSED...BY
THE GRISLY REMNANTS
OF AN AGE-OLD HATRED?
WATCH TRAGEDY STRIKE
FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN
... IN THE SPINE-TINGLING
PAGES OF
"HAUNTED
HAMLET!"



This is WSA's famous step-by-step method you learn in your spare time



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

SEE HOW EASY IT IS... TO BE AN ARTIST!

FREE BOOKLET

shows how you can
earn extra money
CARTOONING
LETTERING
DRAWING

BOOK EXPLAINS: Art principles; artists' earnings; age no obstacle, youth no handicap; advantages of home study; figure drawing from life; examples of successful cartoonists, illustrators; layout, lettering, fashion art; design, color, composition; reproduction processes; outline of WSA home study course; how to sell your work.



Everyone—including beginners on their first lessons—enjoys sparetime painting, sketching or designing. Everyone can use a hobby that pays off with extra money even while learning. And many start new and profitable careers with home study in art. In our 39 years of teaching we have shown thousands how to draw for pleasure and profit. Get this free illustrated booklet which explains the opportunities, tells how our graduates earn excellent livings in the fascinating field of art. Learn about the two complete commercial artist outfits you receive without extra cost, about the privately printed WSA Life Class Book of photographs used in teaching the human figure, about the handbook "How to Sell Your Art Work." Get all this helpful, free information without delay. Supply of booklets is limited; offer is made strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Course is GI approved for eligible veterans.

MAIL COUPON TODAY—No Salesman Will Call

Washington School of Art
Studio 424K, Washington 5, D. C.

Rush "Art for Pleasure & Profit" to

Name _____

Street _____ Age _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Tell me about Trial Plan.

"Have my own studio."
"All my own studio work is taken by Atlantic City store. Consistently use my WSA training."—
Tusi Treichman, Northfield, N. J.

"Became art director."
"I rose to advertising art director; WSA training indispensable; heartily recommend your course."—Julius J. Beard, Atlanta, Ga.

"Won in cartoon contest."
"Won 2nd prize in national contests and famous-name cartoonists; recommend WSA 100%."—Farret C. Love, Monmouth, Ill.



HAUNTED HAMLET



MANY ARE THE STRANGE AND WONDERFUL TALES WHICH HAVE BEEN KEPT ALIVE DOWN THE CENTURIES BY THE THEATRE! BUT THE MOST GRIPPING OF ALL STORIES IS THAT OF THE THEATRE ITSELF-- THAT EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSION WHICH IS HAUNTED BY LEGENDS OF GRIM EVENTS AND ACTORS LONG SINCE DEAD! HERE'S A WEIRD, PULSE-STOPPING TALE OF ONE OF THE THEATRE'S MOST FANTASTIC PERFORMANCES-- THAT OF...

"HAUNTED HAMLET"!

GO BACK, BACK--OR SHE DIES!

THIS MYSTIC SYMBOL-- IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO STOP HIM!



IT WAS A HAPPY DAY WHEN TOMMY BEAL, BRILLIANT YOUNG DIRECTOR, BOUGHT A LONG-CLOSED THEATRE --

IT'S ALL YOURS, SON-- AND GOOD LUCK!

THANKS-- I'LL NEED IT!



YEARS OF EFFORT AND SACRIFICE HAD BROUGHT TOMMY'S LIFELONG AMBITION CLOSE TO FULFILLMENT! NOW, AS THE ACTUAL WORK BEGAN ON HIS PRODUCTION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "HAMLET"--

SURE, I NEED A STAGE DOOR-MAN! YOU'RE HIRED!

THANK YOU! BUT FIRST-- I MUST WARN YOU!



LAUGH IF YOU WISH, BUT THIS THEATRE IS HAUNTED-- BY A FIENDISH SPIRIT!

HUH? TELL ME MORE, TOO-- I CAN USE A LITTLE COMIC RELIEF!



ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN, published monthly and copyright, 1953, by Best Syndicated Features, Inc., 1250 Camden Ave. S. W., Canton 6, Ohio. Editorial offices, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N. Y. Richard E. Hughes, Editor; Frederick N. Iger, Business Manager. Subscription (12 issues), \$1.20; single copies, \$0.10; foreign postage extra. All characters are fictitious and use of any real names is coincidental. For advertising information, address American Comics Group, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N. Y. Re-entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Canton, Ohio, No. 41, March, 1953. Printed in U.S.A.

IN A VOICE
FRAUGHT
WITH DREAD,
THE OLD MAN
TOLD HIS
STORY:
"A HUNDRED
YEARS AGO,
THE FIRST
PLAY GIVEN
AT THIS
THEATRE
WAS
"HAMLET!"
AN AM-
BITIOUS
YOUNG
ACTOR
WAS
SCHED-
ULED TO
STAR, BUT
AT THE
LAST
MOMENT--"

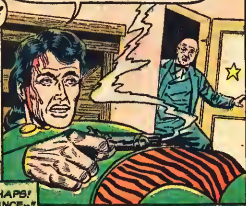
I'M SORRY, CARTER, BUT
WE'VE DECIDED YOU'RE
TOO INEXPERIENCED FOR
THE ROLE! SO WE'VE
ENGAGED A FAMOUS
EUROPEAN ACTOR TO
TAKE
YOUR
PLACE!

B-BUT YOU CAN'T!
THIS PLAY MEANT--
EVERYTHING
TO ME!



"CARTER WAS HEARTBROKEN, AND IN
A FIT OF DEPRESSION--"

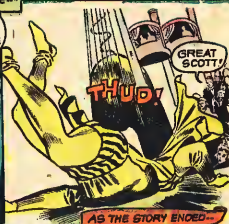
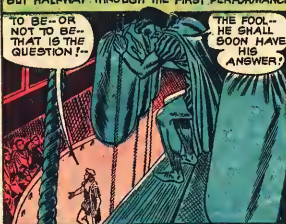
IT-- IS-- DONE! BUT BEFORE-- I DIE-- I
RESOLVE-- NO PLAY WILL EVER-- BE
PERFORMED HERE-- EVEN-- IF I MUST
-- RETURN FROM THE GRAVE!



"THE ANGRY WORDS OF A DYING MAN? PERHAPS!
BUT HALFWAY THROUGH THE FIRST PERFORMANCE--"

TO BE-- OR
NOT TO BE--
THAT IS THE
QUESTION!--

THE FOOL--
HE SHALL
SOON HAVE
HIS
ANSWER!



AS THE STORY ENDED--

"AN ACCIDENT? SO EVERYONE THOUGHT
--THE FIRST TIME! BUT, THROUGH THE
YEARS, MORE GRISLY 'ACCIDENTS'
OCCURRED, AND WHEN THE SPECTRE
FINALLY SHOWED HIMSELF-- THE FRIGHT-
FUL TRUTH BECAME KNOWN--"

"EVENTUALLY, THE
THEATRE WAS
CLOSED--"

IT'S ABOUT
TIME-- AFTER
EIGHT
MURDERS!

AND NOW-- YOU HAVE
BOUGHT IT! BUT WITH IT,
YOU BUY DISASTER!
FOR THE VENGEFUL
GHOST STILL HAUNTS
THE SHADOWS OF
THIS EVIL HALL!

IT'S THE GHOST OF JULES CARTER--
I RECOGNIZE HIM!



GOOD STORY, TODD-- BUT I CAN'T BUY IT!

THEN-- YOU MUST LEARN THE HARD WAY!

As THE CAST WAS GATHERED--

JUST THINK, CARRIE-- IF THIS PLAY'S A SUCCESS-- WE CAN GET MARRIED!

AT REHEARSAL, NO ONE SPOKE OF GHOSTS--OR TRAGEDY--THOUGH HORROR STOOD POISED TO STRIKE--

OKAY-- NOW LET'S TRY THAT SCENE AGAIN!

HEY-- WHAT HAPPENED?

YAAGH!

CRASH

THE PROP-- IT FELL ON HIM! BUT HOW?

POOR GUG-- HE'S-- DEAD!

MERE COINCIDENCE, SAID TOMMY! BUT NEXT DAY-- A SINISTER SHAPE LABORED AT THE GREAT CHANDELIER--

ONE MORE TURN -- AND IT DROPS!

YE GODS! YOU CAN'T CALL THAT A COINCIDENCE, TOMMY!

WHAM!

ON STAGE, FOLKS!

That night, on the darkened stage, a lonely figure brooded--

ONE MORE ACCIDENT AND THE WHOLE CAST WILL QUIT! I CAN'T BLAME 'EM-- BUT IF THEY DO, I'M RUINED!



YOU STARTLED ME, TODD-- WHY ARE YOU STILL HANGING AROUND?



I'VE COME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING-- HOW TO DEFEAT THE GHOST!

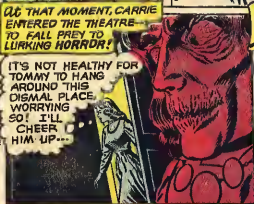
YEAH? WELL, LET'S HEAR IT-- I'LL TRY ANYTHING TO CLEAR UP THIS MESS!

FIRST, YOU MUST BARGAIN WITH HIM! LISTEN--



At that moment, Carrie entered the theatre-- to fall prey to lurking horror!

IT'S NOT HEALTHY FOR TOMMY TO HANG AROUND THIS DISMAL PLACE, WORRYING SO! I'LL CHEER HIM UP--



With a sudden lunge--

OH--HH! T-TOMMY! --HELP!

HA! YOU WILL BE MY NEXT VICTIM!



In the next moment-- as the muffled scream still echoed--

GREAT GUNS-- IT'S THE GHOST! AND HE'S HEADED FOR THE CATWALK WITH CARRIE!



HIGH ABOVE THE STAGE, AS A DRAMA OF TERRIFYING REALITY UNFOLDED--

FOOLS-- YOU'RE TOO LATE! SHE MUST DIE!

YE GODS-- IT'S A FIFTY-FOOT DROP!



Suddenly, OLD TODD'S GNARLED FINGERS TWISTED INTO A MYSTERIOUS SYMBOL--

STOP! DON'T HARM HER! SHE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE THEATRE!

TODD--YOU! BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE!



Miraculously, CARRIE WAS SPARED-- AND THE GHOST, THWARTED, BEGAN TO VANISH--

OH, TOMMY-- IT WAS AWFUL!

HMM-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE GHOST WAS SO AFRAID OF TODD-- BUT MAYBE I CAN BARGAIN WITH HIM, TOO-- NOW!



WAIT-- I WANT TO SPEAK WITH YOU!



WHAT MUST I DO TO LIFT THIS AWFUL CURSE?



FOR AN INSTANT, THE SPECTRAL FIGURE PONDERED-- ITS FEATURES ALMOST HUMAN--

YES, WE CAN DO BUSINESS! YOU SEE, I DIED BECAUSE I COULD NOT REALIZE MY GREATEST AMBITION!



I WILL LIFT THE CURSE-- IF YOU LET ME PLAY HAMLET!



A Fantastic PROPOSITION-- BUT THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE ANSWER...

DO IT, TOMMY! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT MORE BLOOD-SHED!

OKAY-- IT'S A DEAL!

GOOD! THEN FAREWELL-- UNTIL OPENING NIGHT!



NEXT DAY, TOMMY TOLD THE CAST OF THE NIGHT'S AWESOME INCIDENTS--

IT'LL BE A TERRIFYING BUSINESS FOR US ALL-- BUT WE MUST DO AS THE GHOST SAYS!

GOSH-- AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS ALL A PUBLICITY STUNT!



Opening NIGHT! THE AUDIENCE WAS GAY, EXPECTANT! BACKSTAGE--

JUST WAIT'LL THEY SEE THE LEADING MAN-- THEY'LL BE SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS!



The MOMENTS FLEW--AND AS THE GHOST DID NOT APPEAR--

LOOK, TOMMY-- I WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY HAMLET TONIGHT! DO I OR DON'T I?

WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER-- GET INTO YOUR COSTUME!



Suddenly--

NO! I AM READY FOR THE PERFORMANCE!

UGH!



STUNNED BY THE GHOST'S APPEARANCE AND POWER-- THE ACTORS FLED IN TERROR--

C'MON-- LET'S SCRAM!

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT-- WE DON'T HAVE A CAST!



A WEIRD GLOW SUFFUSED THE GRIM VISITOR-- A SEPULCHRAL VOICE ECHOED HOLLOWLY--

O RULERS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD-- SEE MY PLIGHT-- HELP ME!

HOLY MACKEREL-- WHAT'S HE UP TO?



FROM THE DARK WORLD THAT IS DEATH'S DOMAIN-- A FEARSOME GROUP TOOK SHAPE--

IT IS THE ORIGINAL CAST OF HAMLET! THEY RETURN TO PERFORM WITH ME-- TONIGHT!



THIS BEGAN THE MOST FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE IN THEATRICAL HISTORY! BUT AS THE CURTAIN ROSE, CHAOS FILLED THE HALL--

TH--THEY'RE GHOSTS! LEMME OUT OF HERE!



BUT-- THE EXITS WERE BLOCKED BY GHOSTLY USHERS-- RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE!

BACK! YOU WILL REMAIN-- UNTIL THE FINAL CURTAIN!

EXIT



NEVER BEFORE HAD SUCH ACTING BEEN SEEN! THE AUDIENCE FORGOT ITS TERROR-- AND WHEN THE PLAY WAS OVER--



BRAVO!

GREAT!

And AT THE LAST CURTAIN CALL--

LOOK-- THEY'VE ALL VANISHED-- EXCEPT FOR HAMLET AND THE COSTUMES!

YES-- AND NOW HE'S DISAPPEARING!



When THE MORNING REVIEWS WERE PUBLISHED--

LOOK AT THIS ONE! "ONLY A GENIUS COULD HAVE STAGED THIS PLAY-- TOMMY BEAL IS BROADWAY BOUND!"

THIS IS GREAT! AND YOU KNOW-- OLD TODD HELPED A LOT! LET'S THANK HIM!



BUT-- AT THE STAGE DOOR-- A CHILLING SIGHT--

HOLY SMOKE!

TOMMY! THEY'RE TODD'S BELONGINGS!



NO WONDER HE COULD PUT THE HEX ON CARTER'S GHOST!

YES, CARRIE-- IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! TODD WAS THE FIRST STAGE DOORMAN OF THIS THEATRE-- A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!



The End

The WEREWOLF

BLEARY-EYED AND nearly dead with fatigue, Tim Cochrane huddled deeper into the snow, flexing his hands to keep his trigger finger warm. The only thing between him and the ravening wolves out there in the darkness was his rifle, and a handful of ammunition.

Perhaps he had been a fool to attempt the trip. Didn't he know as well as anybody that 63 trappers had disappeared within the last year, apparently victims of some awful menace stalking the frozen Alaskan wastes?

But *how*, he wondered. Could all have fallen prey to wolves? Impossible, he thought, for there were too many ways in which cunning men could deal with the brute intelligence of animals.

But in the last 36 hours Tim had come face to face with a wolf pack such as he never dreamed existed. His husky team was strong and swift, and for 15 hours had outraced the pursuers. When a wolf got too close, Tim dropped it with a shot. One shot, one carcass, without fail.

Except for a single exception, the huge white wolf leading them.

The first time Tim fired at it he simply thought he missed. But there could be no doubt about the second shot, which also had no effect. So he quickly fired at another, hoping that the rest would stop to devour it and fight among themselves. Such was the way *all* wolves behaved. But not *these*! For in this pack only a few stopped to feed upon a fallen comrade. The rest continued the pursuit relentlessly, as if directed by a human brain.

Tim was alone now, having been forced to abandon his dogs one by one to gain time as his ammunition dwindled. He had only six shots left, and there were more than ten wolves remaining. What rotten luck, he thought, for now he was close enough to a small settlement to reach it on foot in a few hours.

He could see the yellow slits of their cruel eyes gleaming in the darkness, closing in on him slowly. It would all be over soon.

But the waiting gave him precious mo-

ments in which to think. How was it that he was pursued at all, since he had carefully chosen a route which wolves almost never traveled? And what about the other trappers? How was it that *their* routes had been so well known, too? And what about the enormous white wolf, which couldn't be killed? Could the creature be... *supernatural*, a human being who could assume the shape of a wolf at will, in short, a *werewolf*?

It was a wild gamble, but what did he have to lose? Quickly he pulled a silver dollar out of his pocket and began rubbing it briskly against the head of one of his remaining bullets. He rubbed desperately, knowing that it was his only remaining chance for life. For if werewolves actually existed, then the legends which said that only *silver* could kill one might also be true. And the legends said further that it made no difference how *much* silver penetrated a werewolf's body. Any particle, no matter how small, would cause instantaneous death.

The cruel, yellow slits moved closer. He waited until they were almost upon him, then fired the bullet rubbed with silver straight at the huge white wolf.

A terrible howl split the frozen air. Before Tim's astonished eyes the creature twisted high into the air, bellowing its death agonies. And when it crashed to the ground, it had become a *man*... whom Tim recognized! The other wolves instantly fell upon their fallen leader, tearing at each other for possession of the corpse. Now Tim quickly killed three more, leaving the rest a feast. Then he ran like a man possessed for the settlement scant miles away.

Weeks later, after he had told his story everywhere, those who had said he was mad began to doubt. For Tim had sworn that the white wolf had actually been the supernatural form of the owner of the Trapper's Trading Post, a man who knew all the trappers' movements. And the doubts were caused not only by the fact that the disappearances had stopped abruptly, but because the man was never seen or heard of again.

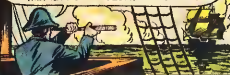
FOR EIGHTY YEARS, THE WORLD HAS BEEN MYSTIFIED BY THE STRANGE CASE OF THE MARIE CELESTE, AN AMERICAN BRIGANTINE FROM WHOSE DECKS AN ENTIRE CREW VANISHED MYSTERIOUSLY IN 1872! ONLY RECENTLY HAVE THE EDITORS OF THIS MAGAZINE COME ACROSS AN EXPLANATION AS FANTASTIC AS THE CASE ITSELF-- AN EXPLANATION WHICH WE PASS ON TO YOU FOR YOUR OWN JUDGMENT!

MYSTERY of the MARIE CELESTE



THE **FACTS** OF THE CASE ARE THESE! ON DECEMBER 5TH, 1872, THE CREW OF THE BRITISH SHIP **DEI GRATIA**, PLYING BETWEEN THE AZORES AND LISBON, SPIED A VESSEL TACKLING ERRATICALLY ON THE CALM SEA--

IT'S THE AMERICAN SHIP **MARIE CELESTE**! STRANGE-- I CAN'T MAKE OUT ANY CREW MEMBERS ON DECK! I WONDER--



REPEATED HAILS BROUGHT NO RESPONSE-- AND WHEN THE BRITONS BOARDED THE VESSEL--

BLIMEY-- THERE'S NOT A SOUL ABOARD! SHE'S A **GHOST SHIP**!



A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE SHIP REVEALED NEITHER SIGNS OF LIFE NOR ANY EXPLANATION TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS ABSENCE--

THAT BOTTLE IS UPRIGHT-- WHICH MEANS THERE WAS NO ROUGH WEATHER!

YES, AND THE LATEST ENTRY IN THE LOGBOOK, DATED NOVEMBER 25TH, MAKES NO MENTION OF MUTINY OR ANY OTHER TROUBLE! THIS IS THE **MYSTERY OF THE AGE**!



THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT INSTITUTED A WORLD-WIDE INVESTIGATION OF THE MYSTERY-- BUT FOR 80 YEARS, NO ONE WAS ABLE TO OFFER A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION-- BUT ONLY RECENTLY--



NAVAL LIEUTENANT WERE TO SEE YOU SIR-- SAYS HE'S GOT NEW INFORMATION ON THE MARIE CELESTE!

I FOUND THIS BOTTLE IN THE WATERS OFF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WHILE MY DESTROYER WAS ON A PATROL RUN. BUT I DIDN'T DARE SHOW THE MANUSCRIPT IN IT TO ANYONE FOR FEAR OF BEING LAUGHED OUT OF THE SERVICE! BUT I FIGURED THAT YOU, AS PUBLISHERS OF SUPERNATURAL MAGAZINES--



OUR POLICY ISN'T TO SCOFF, BUT TO INVESTIGATE ANYTHING PERTAINING TO THE UNKNOWN! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

I, Alonso Marden, First Mate of the brig Marie Celeste, am in sound mind, and am writing this on Nov 26, 1872, in the hope some day the world will know the true story of the awful fate that befell the crew of this ship. But I will have to hurry, since any minute the thing may come for me...

"OUR POSITION THIS AFTERNOON WAS ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN LISBON AND THE AZORES-- WHEN SUDDENLY WE SAW AN AWFUL SIGHT TO STARBOARD--"

GOOD HEAVENS--WHAT IS THAT, MR MARDEN?

IT-- IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A SEA-SERPENT!



"REARING IN A SUDDEN SURGE FROM THE RIPPLING DEPTHS-- A THING OF SHEER HORROR!"

IT-- IT'S THE DEMON OF THE DEEP! I'VE HEARD TALES OF HOW IT RISES FROM THE BOTTOM TO GAZE HUMAN PREY-- AND NOW IT'S COME FOR US!



STEADY, MEN! I'LL STOP IT-- WHATEVER IT IS!

BAM!

"BUT WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF A STRIKING COBRA,
ONE OF THE MONSTER'S SLIMY TENTACLES DARTED
OUT-- AND..."

ARRGHH!



IT... IT TOOK THE
CAP'N-- SWALLOWED
"IM WHOLE! RUN--
BEFORE IT
GETS US!"

DOWN THE HATCH-
WAYS, WHERE
THOSE TENTACLES
CAN'T REACH US!



FASTER! IT-- IT'S GOT
ARMS LIKE RUBBER--
THEY KEEP GETTIN'
LONGER, CHASIN' US
WHEREVER WE GO!

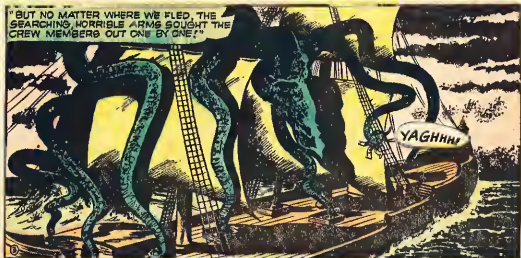


WE ALL FLED DOWN INTO THE HOLO, BUT EVEN
THERE THOSE INCREDIBLY ELASTIC TENTACLES
PURSUED US--



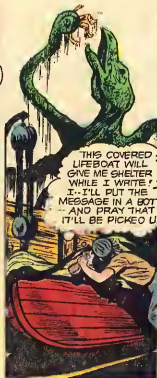
SCATTER
TO THE FOUR
CORNERS OF
THE SHIP
AND HIDE!
MAYBE SOME
OF US WILL
BE ABLE TO
ESCAPE!

"BUT NO MATTER WHERE WE FLED, THE
SEARCHING HORRIBLE ARMS SOUGHT THE
CREW MEMBERS OUT ONE BY ONE!"

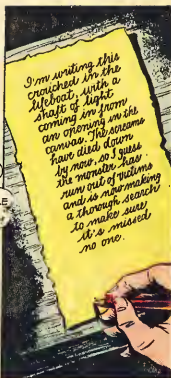


"WITH THE SCREAMS OF MY COMRADES SOUNCING ABOUT ME, I SEIZED UPON A DESPERATE STRATAGEM TO SECURE A FEW MORE MINUTES OF LIFE FOR MYSELF!"

IT'S SEARCHING FOR VICTIMS IN THE HOLDS-- SO I'LL GO **ABOVE DECK**! IT MAY FIND ME EVENTUALLY-- BUT MAYBE NOT BEFORE I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO WARN THE WORLD ABOUT THIS MONSTER!



THIS COVERED LIFEBOAT WILL GIVE ME SHELTER WHILE I WRITE! I-- I'LL PUT THE MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE-- AND PRAY THAT IT'LL BE PICKED UP!



I'm writing this crouched in the lifeboat, with a shaft of light coming in from an opening in the canvas. The screams have died down by now, so I guess the monster has run out of victims and is now making a thorough search to make sure it's missed no one.

"...WE OF THE MARIE CELESTE WILL HAVE DIED IN VAIN UNLESS THE WORLD IS WARNED OF THE DEADLY MENACE OF THE **DEMON OF THE DEEP**! IT WILL STRIKE AGAIN AND AGAIN THROUGH THE YEARS, UNLESS..." THE LETTER ENDS RIGHT THERE-- **IN MID-SENTENCE!**

YES, BUT POOR ALONZO MUST HAVE HAD TIME TO THROW HIS BOTTLED LETTER OVERBOARD-- **BEFORE HE DIED!**



HMM, THE EXISTENCE OF THE DEMON **WOULD** EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES OF THE CREWS OF SUCH SHIPS AS THE **CYCLOPS**, THE **ROSALIE**, THE **ATLANTA**, THE **KOBENHOVEN**-- AND COUNTLESS OTHERS THROUGH THE YEARS! THERE'S NO WAY OF EVER FINDING OUT WHETHER THE STORY IS ACTUALLY TRUE OR NOT-- BUT, I'LL HAVE IT PRINTED, AND **LET THE READERS JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES!**



WHAT DO YOU THINK, READER? IS THERE SUCH A MONSTER AS THE **DEMON OF THE DEEP**? AND IF YOU THINK IT **DOES** EXIST, WE HOPE YOU NEVER MEET UP WITH IT!



THE CURSED CRYSTAL

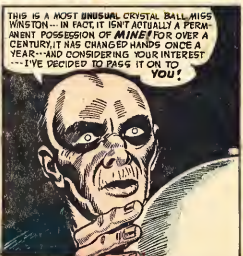
WHAT STRANGE, SINISTER SECRET LAY WITHIN THE OLD HOUSE THAT NO ONE EVER VISITED? THE ANSWER HAS BURIED IN THE ANFUL DEPTHS OF THE CURSED CRYSTAL! GAZE INTO IT, READER, AND STEEL YOUR SHRINKING NERVES... FOR AN ADVENTURE INTO THE GRIM SUPER-NATURAL SUCH AS YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN!



WONDER HOW COME THIS WEEK END INVITATION OF BRADFORD'S, BETTY... AND JUST WHY HE ASKED US TO ARRIVE AT NIGHT! HE'S PRACTICALLY A NEIGHBOR OF YOURS... BUT I UNDERSTOOD HE STAYED PRETTY MUCH TO HIMSELF!

I USED TO MEET BRADFORD IN TOWN NOW AND THEN STEVE... UP TO A YEAR AGO! SINCE THEN, HE'S BECOME A RECLUSE... I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS SEEN HIM!







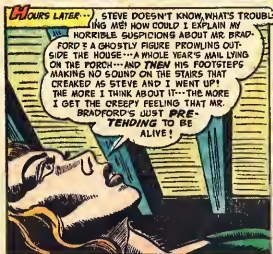
I'M NOT SURE I WANT IT, MR. BRADFORD! I'VE NEVER SEEN A CRYSTAL BALL BEFORE... BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST UNCANNY ABOUT THIS ONE!

PERHAPS YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE! BUT IT IS GROWING LATE... LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS!

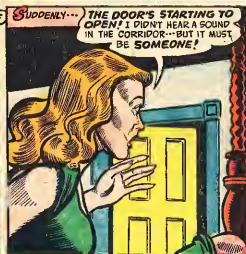


THAT... MOUNTING SLOWLY INTO THE DEEPENING GLOOM... SOMETHING WRONG, HONEY? YOU SEEM MOODY... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

NOTHING, STEVE! I'M JUST... LISTENING!



HOURS LATER... STEVE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S TROUBLING ME! HOW COULD I EXPLAIN MY HORRIBLE SUSPICIONS ABOUT MR. BRADFORD? A GHOSTLY FIGURE PROWLING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE... A WHOLE YEAR'S MAIL LYING ON THE PORCH... AND THEN HIS FOOTSTEPS MAKING NO SOUND ON THE STAIRS THAT CREAKED AS STEVE AND I WENT UP! THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT... THE MORE I GET THE CREEPY FEELING THAT MR. BRADFORD'S JUST **PRE-TENDING** TO BE ALIVE!



SUDDENLY... THE DOOR'S STARTING TO OPEN! I DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND IN THE CORRIDOR... BUT IT MUST BE **SOMEONE!**



I SENSED YOU WOULD NOT BE ASLEEP, MISS WINSTON... AND REMEMBERING MY PROMISE... I DECIDED TO BRING THIS!

BUT I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT IT! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CRYSTAL BALL THAT **SCARES** ME... AND SOMETHING FRIGHTENING ABOUT YOU, TOO!



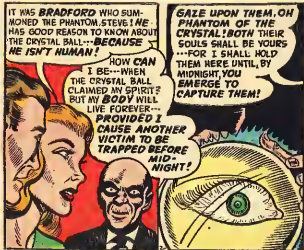
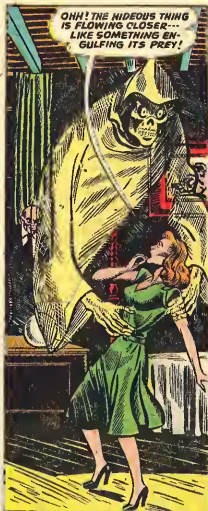
FEAR IS FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE, MISS WINSTON... NOT SOMEONE LIKE YOU... SOMEONE **CHOSEN!** COME CLOSER... TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE IN THE CRYSTAL BALL!

IT'S YOUR FACE! BUT HOW COULD IT HAPPEN... IS IT A TRICK?



NO... NOT A TRICK! YOU SEE, THERE'S A **BEING** WITHIN THE CRYSTAL BALL THAT'S CLAIMED A PART OF ME! AND NOW... IT'S COMING FOR YOU!

GOOD HEAVENS... THERE'S A GLEISTING PHANTOM COMING OUT!



THAT PROVES
THE FALL **DID**
KILL HIM, THEN
... **GOOD**
HEAVENS! HE'S
TURNED INTO A
SKELETON!

YES--- WHICH SHOWS
THE SORT OF LIFE
HE'S BEEN LEADING
FOR THE PAST YEAR!
HE'S BEEN A **WALK-
ING CORPSE** WAIT-
ING IN SECLUSION
UNTIL **TONIGHT**,
WHEN HE TRIED TO
LURE **YOU** TO THE
CURSED CRYSTAL---
EXACTLY A YEAR
AFTER IT
VICTIMIZED
HIM!

STEVE, I CAN'T
GUESS WHAT
DIABOLICAL
POWER CON-
TROLS THIS
THING--- BUT
BEFORE WE
GO ANY
FURTHER---
**LET'S
SMASH
IT!**

I'LL TRY, HONEY---
BUT I'M CONVINC-
ED IT WON'T DO
ANY GOOD! THE
CRYSTAL HAS BEEN
ENGULFING VICTIMS
IN A CHAIN OF
HORROR FOR
YEARS---AND
THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY TO END THE
CURSE! WE'VE GOT
TO DEAL WITH THE
EVIL **SOURCE**
---THAT AWFUL
PHANTOM THAT
LURKS WITHIN
IT!

THE PHANTOM OF THE CRYSTAL WAS
ONCE A LIVING HUMAN--- **SOMEONE**
WHOSE SPIRIT HAS SURVIVED
ONLY BECAUSE ONCE A YEAR IT
HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRAP AN UN-
SUSPECTING SACRIFICE LIKE
BRADFORD! BUT NOW CAN WE
TRACE THE PHANTOM BACK TO
ITS HUMAN ORIGIN--- WHEN IT
DOESN'T
HAVE HUMAN
FEATURES?

WAIT---WHAT ABOUT
THE **GYPSY GIRL** I
SAW OUTSIDE?
GYPSIES HAVE USED
CRYSTAL BALLS FOR
CENTURIES! SUPPOSE IT'S
HER SPIRIT THAT LURKS
IN THE CRYSTAL--- THAT
WOULD EXPLAIN WHY SHE
TOOK HUMAN FORM TONIGHT
--- WATCHING TO SEE IF
BRADFORD OB-
TAINED A NEW
VICTIM!

SEE---IT'S JUST
WHAT I FIGURED!
THAT GYPSY GIRL
COULD BE THE PHYSI-
CAL MANIFESTATION OF THE
PHANTOM--- **BUT THE
CRYSTAL BALL CAN'T
BE DESTROYED AS
LONG AS THE PHANTOM
ITSELF REMAINS
INSIDE!**

BLAM!

IT'S HORRIBLE
STEVE! BRADFORD
DIDN'T MANAGE TO
TRAP US, BUT AS
LONG AS THAT
THING HARBORS
A LIVING REID
WAITING TO
CLAIM A NEW
VICTIM---
**WE'RE IN
DEADLY
DANGER!**

MIGHT AS WELL GO TO YOUR
ROOM AND GET SOME REST,
BETTY--- YOU'LL BE SAFE AS
LONG AS THE CRYSTAL BALL IS
HERE! MEANWHILE--- I'LL TRY
TO WORK OUT THE ANSWER!

THE NIGHT CREEPS ON---AND WITH THE CRYSTAL BALL GLEAM-
ING FROM THE SHADOWS---

I DIDN'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN BETTY--- BUT IT'S
OBVIOUS WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW THAT BRAD-
FORD'S SPIRIT HAS BEEN RELEASED! **ANOTHER**
LIVING CORPSE WILL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE
--- **SO IT'S A SAFE BET THAT THE
GYPSY WILL HAVE TO TAKE OVER TO
TRY TO GET ME CLOSE TO
THE CRYSTAL!**

MINUTES LATER--- AS A STRANGE, DEATHLIKE CHILL
FILLS THE ROOM---

MY GOSH--- THAT THING
GLIDED THROUGH A
SECOND-STORY
WINDOW!

CAREFUL, STEVE! THIS IS NO ORDINARY WOMAN, BUT A CREATURE OF UNBOUNDED EVIL...FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!

I AM GLAD TO FIND YOU WAITING ME... ALONE!

I NEEDN'T ASK WHAT YOU ARE, OR WHY YOU'RE HERE... **BECAUSE THE CRYSTAL BALL IS GLOWING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER AS YOU APPROACH IT!**



IS THAT TO BE MARVELED AT...WHEN IT HARBORS MY VERY SOUL? OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I WAS A CREATURE THAT KEPT MY FELLOW-GYPSIES IN A STATE OF TERROR...**A WITCH!**

WHEN I DIED, THEY PLACED THIS CRYSTAL BALL IN MY COFFIN...**KNOWING IT WOULD KEEP MY EVIL SPIRIT TRAPPED FOREVER!**



AND YET IT WASN'T A TRAP! YOUR PHANTOM CAN RISE FROM THE CRYSTAL WHENEVER IT SENSES PREY...**AND YOUR LIVING CORPSE IS ABLE TO ROAM AT WILL!**

FOR THAT I CAN THANK ONE OF OUR GYPSIES...WHO WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO LOVE ME! WHEN I DIED HE WAS CRAZED BY GRIEF...HE REFUSED TO BELIEVE I WAS A WITCH...AND OPENED MY GRAVE, HOPING TO PROVE MY SPIRIT HAD NOT BEEN IMPRISONED IN THE CRYSTAL!



THE MOMENT MY GRAVE WAS UNCOVERED...MY BLACK MAGIC WAS SET FREE! MY LIVING CORPSE GAINED NEW LIFE...AND THE CRYSTAL BALL BECAME MY HAVEN...**THE ONLY HIDING PLACE OF AN EVIL SOUL THAT SUSTAINED ITSELF WITH A NEW VICTIM EVERY YEAR!**

AND THE CRYSTAL'S A SAFE REFUGE, EH? CAN'T BE SHATTERED AS LONG AS THE PHANTOM LURKS WITHIN IT, RIGHT?



FOR AN INSTANT, STEVE GAZES AT THE BEWITCHING FACE THAT MASKS UNBOUNDED EVIL...AND SUDDENLY...A PLAN TAKES SHAPE!

YOU'RE PRETTY TERRIFIC FOR A WITCH...AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY YOU'VE KEPT YOUR SPIRIT AND YOUR LIVING CORPSE SEPARATE! IF THEY EVER CAME TOGETHER, THE RESULT WOULD BE SO HIDEOUS THAT I'D SCREAM OUT OF HERE...**AND YOU'D LOSE A VICTIM!**



NONSENSE...YOU COULD NEVER ESCAPE! BUT WHAT NEED HAVE I FOR HORROR...WHEN MY BEAUTY WILL MAKE YOU SURRENDER YOURSELF WILLINGLY?

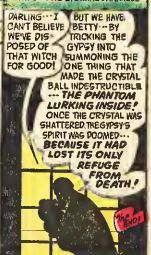
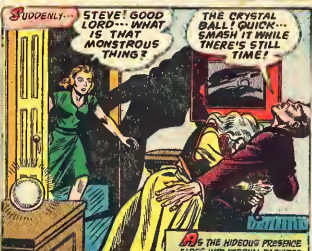
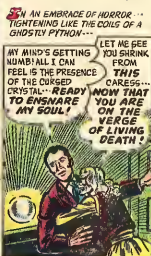
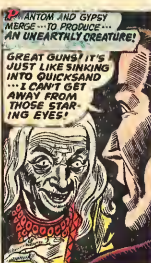
YOU'D BETTER GUESS AGAIN...BECAUSE I'M A LONG WAY FROM SEEING ANYTHING SEDUCTIVE ABOUT A GHOUL!



FODL...YOU HAVE CHOSEN BETWEEN FASCINATION AND HORROR! I WILL SUMMON MY SPIRIT FROM THE CRYSTAL BALL...AND WHEN IT CHANGES MY LIVING CORPSE INTO THE THING IT SHOULD BE AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS...**YOU WILL BE TOO PARALYZED BY HORROR TO RESIST!**

LET MY FIENDISH SPIRIT RISE FROM ITS HAVEN...AND MERGE WITH THIS BODY THAT DIED A CENTURY AGO!





EDITOR

LET'S TALK IT OVER!

CLOSE THE DOOR against the shrieking wind, reader, and try to drown out the moaning wail of lost souls abroad in the wintry night! And now join the rest of us, gathered about the warm fire, safe from whatever dread phantoms may lurk without! Gaze, gaze into the dancing flames, with their fateful visions of things from out of the *Unknown*...of ghosts, vampires, werewolves! What better time or setting for this, our latest meeting of the Loyal Fans of "Adventures Into The Unknown"?

It's good to meet up with you all again; to know that we're with friends who share with us a fascination for the great and teeming *Supernatural*. As Editors of America's first and greatest magazine of the weird and occult, we can't help but realize our good fortune...namely, that of earning our livelihood from the thing we love best. It is our sincere hope that our devotion to our hobby has paid off in terms of benefit to you...that is, in the best, most interesting and most exciting supernatural magazine you've ever read! From the beginning, this has been our goal, and the eagerness

with which the reading public has greeted our every issue encourages us in the belief that we're heading in the right direction!

Lets take the current issue, for example. We think you'll get quite a bang out of our lead story, "Haunted Hamlet"...a strange and terror-fraught tale of a haunted theatre and a ghost that couldn't rest! Then, for an amazing and pulse-quickening exploit into the *Unknown*, there's "The Mystery of The Marie Celeste". For eerie thrills such as you've never before experienced, "The Cursed Crystal" fills the bill. You'll go all out for "The Ghost's Revenge", a tensely-plotted yarn that packs many a shudder...and you'll find a real spine-tingler in "True' Zombies of History"!

Please...won't you let us know what you think of this issue...and what you'd like to see in future issues? Address your letter to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. And here's what some of our other readers are saying!

"Dear Editor:-

I think 'Adveotures loto The Uokooown' is far better than any other magazine of its type, and that your stories are really out of this world! I practically lived 'The Eyes of Doom'. Keep up the wonderful work!

--Hazel Wilson, Unadilla, Ga."

"Dear Editor:-

'Adventures Into The Unknown' is tops on my list...nobody could enjoy it more than I! I'll always be a fan of your fine magazine!

--Buddy Floyd, Marianna, Fla."

"Dear Editor:-

I guess I've read every comics book going...but never one so great as 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. I love stories such as 'Flight of The Dead' and 'The Thing That Lived Again'. Keep up your wonderful record!

--S. Privette, Baltimore, Md."

"Dear Editor:-

My friend and I have read your wonderful comic from issue number fifteen up to your latest release, and think that 'Adventures Into The Unknown' is the greatest by far! Please...how can we get back issues that we've missed?

--Patrick Tiernan, Brooklyn, N. Y."

The GHOST'S REVENGE!

WHEN A LIVING MORTAL AND A DEPARTED SPIRIT ENTER INTO A BARGAIN, THERE CAN BE NO BACKING OUT... BUT CURLY ADAMS THOUGHT OTHERWISE! HE HAD ALL THE ANGLES FIGURED... HE WAS A KILLER, COOL AND CALCULATING... AND HE WAS BRAZENLY CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE... THE GHOST'S REVENGE!



LATE ONE NIGHT, ALONG A MAIN HIGHWAY...

IT'S NO USE, ADAMS... WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THEM COPPERS!

RELAX... I KNOW A TURN-OFF UP AHEAD

WHERE WE'LL DITCH 'EM GOOD!



MOMENTS LATER... MAYBE NOW YOU'LL BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I'VE ALWAYS GOT AN ANGLE! WE'LL BE LEAVIN' THE CAR IN A COUPLA MINUTES... I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHIN'!



...FOLLOWING A NARROW DIRT PATH, ADAMS
LED THE WAY TO THE EDGE OF A
CLEARING...

THERE IT IS, GAINES
...THE PERFECT
HIDE-OUT! I
SPOTTED THIS PLACE
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO
AND FIGURED IT WOULD
COME IN HANDY IN
CASE OF EMERGENCY!
WE'LL HOLE UP HERE
TILL THINGS COOL
OFF!

I---I DON'T
LIKE THE LOOKS
OF IT, ADAMS!
IT GIVES ME
THE CREEPS!

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A NICE COZY
JAIL INSTEAD? REMEMBER GAINES
---WE'RE WANTED FOR ARMED
ROBBERY! GUNS ON THE LAM CAN'T
BE FUSSY! NOW WHAT IS IT GONNA
BE TARE YOU
WITH ME, OR
DO WE GO IT
SEPARATE?

N---NO---I'D NEVER
MAKE IT ON MY
OWN! I'LL DO WHAT
YOU SAY!

NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' SENSE!
BESIDES, HAVE I SLIPPED
UP YET? DON'T I ALWAYS
HAVE AN ANGLE?

YEAH,
YOU'RE
SMART,
ADAMS---
I'LL
STICK!

A SHORT WHILE LATER, INSIDE THE OLD HOUSE...

AS SOON AS I GET THIS FIRE
GOING WE'LL FEEL---HEY,
WHAT'S SATIN' YOU?

TH---THAT SMOKE
---OVER THERE IN
THE CORNER!

LOOK! SOME-
THIN'S TAKIN'
SHAPE!

STEP ASIDE, BUSTER
---WHATEVER IT IS, I'M
GONNA BLAST IT!

WITH STUNNING SPEED, THE WHIPS OF SMOKE MATERIALIZED
INTO A SPECTRAL FORM! THE FLESHLESS LIPS MOVED, AND
THE ROOM ECHOED TO A HOLLOW VOICE---

PUT ASIDE YOUR GUN---
IT IS USELESS AGAINST
ME! BESIDES, I COME NOT
TO HARM YOU---BUT TO
ASK A FAVOR! GRANT!
AND YOU WILL BE
WELL REWARDED!

DON'T DO
IT, ADAMS!
IT'S SOME
KIND OF---

SHUT UP, AND LET THE CREEP
TALK! I'M ALWAYS READY TO
LISTEN TO A PROPOSITION
---AS LONG AS THERE'S SOME
THING IN IT FOR CURLY
ADAMS!

MY NAME IS **ORVILLE WILKES**! SIX YEARS AGO I WAS **MURDERED** IN THIS HOUSE, POISONED BY MY WIFE FOR MY INSURANCE MONEY! FOR SIX LONG YEARS MY SPIRIT HAS WANDERED RESTLESSLY, WHILE SHE LIVES ON---ENJOYING HER ILL-GOTTEN GAINS! UNTIL SHE **PAYS** FOR HER CRIME, I CAN NEVER FIND ETERNAL PEACE!



SHE MUST'VE BEEN PLENTY SMART TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER!

YES SHE WAS CLEVER---AND EXTREMELY PATIENT! SHE POISONED ME SO SLOWLY THAT EVEN THE DOCTORS WERE MISLED! SHE EVEN FOOLED ME, BUT AT THE VERY END I DISCOVERED HER TREACHERY!



IN MY PRESENT FORM, I CANNOT BRING MY WIFE TO JUSTICE! THAT IS WHY I NEED THE HELP OF A **MORTAL**! GO TO THE POLICE---TELL THEM ABOUT MY MURDER AND DEMAND THAT THE CASE BE RE-OPENED! ONCE MY WIFE IS FACED WITH THIS NEW CHARGE SHE WILL BREAK DOWN AND CONFESS---OF THAT I AM CERTAIN!

OKAY---BUT HOW DO I DO WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



BEHIND THIS PANEL IS \$5,000! I HID IT THERE A FEW DAYS BEFORE MY DEATH, KNOWING THAT IT WOULDN'T FALL INTO HER HANDS! THE MONEY IS YOURS---IF YOU PROMISE TO DO AS I ASKED!

IF THE DOUGH IS THERE LIKE YOU SAY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN ADAMS TORE AWAY THE THIN PANELING---

IT'S HERE ALL RIGHT---**FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS!**

THEN YOU WILL DO AS I SAY---YOU MUST! WASTE NO TIME---TAKE THE SOUTH ROAD FROM HERE TO THE TOWN CALLED CLARKSVILLE! THAT IS WHERE SHE LIVES! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO---**FAREWELL!**

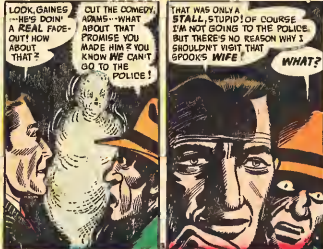


LOOK, GAINES---HE'S DOIN' A REAL FADE-OUT! HOW ABOUT THAT?

CUT THE COMEDY, ADAMS---WHAT ABOUT THAT PROMISE YOU MADE HIM? YOU KNOW WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE!

THAT WAS ONLY A **STALL**, STUPID! OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO THE POLICE. BUT THERE'S NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T VISIT THAT **SPOOKS WIFE!**

WHAT?





RIGHT NOW I'M KINDA ANXIOUS TO MAKE THE BORDER!
I NEED A FAST CAR, AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES! I'D
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D DO THE SHOPPING FOR
ME!

I---I UNDERSTAND! BUT I'LL
DO EVEN MORE! SUPPOSE
I GO WITH YOU?



I'M NOT THE NOSEY TYPE, BUT IT LOOKS
AS IF BOTH OF US WOULD DO BETTER
BY GETTING OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
MY HUSBAND WAS AN OLD
FOOL AND BORED ME
STIFF! YOU'RE MORE
MY TYPE!

YOU CAN
SAY THAT
AGAIN!
BABY! SURE
WE COULD
HIT IT OFF
SWELL!



EATE THAT SAME EVENING---

WELL, EVERYTHING'S GET HANDSOME!
THE NEW CAR WILL BE DELIVERED IN
THE MORNING, ALONG WITH THE
OTHER STUFF! BY TOMORROW
NIGHT WE'LL BE ON OUR
WAY!

NICE GOING,
KARIN--- YOU'RE
PLAYING BALL
A LOT BETTER
THAN I THOUGHT!



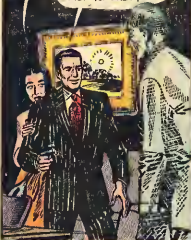
WE'RE GONNA GO PLACES,
US TWO! YOU STICK WITH
ME AN---

N---NO!
LOOK!



IT---IT'S MY HUSBAND
---ORVILLE!
H---HE'LL KILL
US!

THIS SPOOK
CAN'T HARM A
FLEA, BABY---HE
TOLD ME SO HIM-
SELF! THAT'S WHY
HE HAD ME COME
AFTER YOU! ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, SMOKEY?



THERE IS NO NEED FOR
ME TO HURT YOU---EVEN
IF I COULD! IT HAS BEEN
BEEN DONE FOR ME---
IN A FEW MINUTES YOU
WILL BE DEAD!

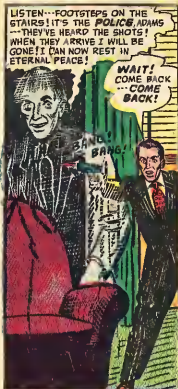
ME?
...DEAD?



YOU FORGOT ABOUT HER,
YOU FOOL! SHE'S POISONED
YOUR DRINK---PLANNED TO
KILL YOU, JUST AS SHE
MURDERED ME!

POISONED
...MY---





"TRUE" Zombies & History

OF ALL LEGENDS ABOUT ZOMBIES, NONE IS MORE FASCINATING THAN THAT OF **HUGO ORMSBECK**, THE DREAD ALCHEMIST WHO IS SAID TO HAVE PRACTICED THE BLACK ARTS OF WIZARDRY IN THE SMALL TOWN OF ASCHA IN THE BAVARIAN FOREST DURING THE EARLY HALF OF THE 13TH CENTURY-- IN THE DARKEST OF THE DARK AGES!

NO ONE KNEW FROM WHENCE HUGO HAD COME, OR WHERE HE HAD LEARNED HIS STRANGE SECRETS! ALL THAT THE TOWNS-PEOPLE KNEW WAS THAT HE WAS CONSTANTLY AT WORK IN THE SHOP WHICH NO ONE DARED ENTER!



INSIDE-- A HORRIBLE SIGHT--

AT LAST-- BY THIS FINAL EXPERIMENT-- I HAVE ACHIEVED **IMMORTALITY!** DEATH IS NOT FOR ME-- FOR I SHALL RETURN TO LIFE AFTER I DIE!

LILI-- MY LILI! HE'S KILLED HER!



OCCASIONALLY, A MAIDEN OF THE VILLAGE WOULD VANISH MYSTERIOUSLY, BUT NO ONE HAD THE COURAGE TO ACCUSE HUGO-- UNTIL THAT FATEFUL DAY IN OCTOBER, 1239--

A SCREAM-- FROM HUGO ORMSBECK'S SHOP! COME, LET US LOOK THROUGH HIS WINDOW, AND SEE WHAT THE OLD DEVIL IS UP TO!

IT... IT SOUNDED LIKE MY LILI'S VOICE-- SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR THREE DAYS NOW!



LED BY THE REVENGE-CRAZED FATHER, THE TOWNSMEN BURST INTO THE SHOP!

KILL HIM IF HE RESISTS!

FOOLS-- I WILL NOT RESIST! KILL ME IF YOU WISH-- IT DOES NOT MATTER!



AT THE TRIAL OF HUGO ORMS-
BECK, WHICH ANCIENT RECORDS
INDICATE WAS HELD ON
NOVEMBER 2ND, 1739--

YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY
OF THE MURDER OF LILI
GROTTWOHL-- AND THE
COURT HEREBY SENTENCES
YOU TO BE HUNG
BY THE NECK
UNTIL DEAD!

UNTIL DEAD?
HA-HA!
HAA-HAAA!



THE NEXT DAY, AS THE CON-
DEMNED MAN'S LAUGHTER
FADED AWAY OVER THE
TOWN SQUARE--

HE... HE
LAUGHED
UNTIL THE
VERY END
--WHY?

PERHAPS WE
WILL FIND
OUT--TO OUR
SORROW!



I WILL REST
EASIER WHEN
SIX FEET OF
HARD-PACKED
EARTH
COVER
THIS
FIEND!

SO? WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK SIX
FEET--OR
EVEN A
THOUSAND FEET
--CAN HOLD A
SORCERER WHO
HAS LEARNED
THE SECRETS
OF LIFE AND
DEATH?



THE GRAVE-DIGGER'S QUESTION PROVED
PROPHETIC-- FOR 13 WEEKS LATER--

THERE'S SOMETHING
BREAKING OUT OF THE
TOP OF THAT GRAVE--
A MOLE, NO DOUBT!



BUT INSTEAD OF A MOLE--

Himmel! L... LIVING HANDS--
FROM A DEAD MAN'S GRAVE!



PARALYZED WITH TERROR, THE MAN STOOD
ROOTED TO THE SPOT-- TO WITNESS THE
APPEARANCE OF HUGO
ORMSBECK, ZOMBIE!

HE... HE HAS
BECOME ONE
OF THE
LIVING
DEAD!



HE TURNED TO RUN-- BUT
IT WAS TOO LATE!

ARGHHHH!



AN HOUR LATER, AT THE HOME OF THE JUDGE WHO HAD SENTENCED HUGO ORMSBECK TO DEATH--



YOU... YOU'VE RETURNED FROM THE DEAD!



AFTER WREAKING HIS REVENGE, THE ZOMBIE WENT ON A MURDEROUS RAMPAGE AGAINST THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN -- AND IN HIS WAKE LAY DEATH!



IN THE MORNING, THE FEARFUL TOWNSPEOPLE GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE MURDERS IN HUSHED TONES--

NOW WE KNOW WHY HUGO ORMSBECK LAUGHED AT THE GALLOWS-- HE HAD LEARNED THE SECRET OF LIFE AFTER DEATH, AND KNEW THAT HE WOULD RETURN FROM THE GRAVE!

YES -- TO SLAY US ALL, ONE BY ONE!



BUT LOCKED DOORS COULDN'T STOP A ZOMBIE ARMED WITH THE SUPERNATURAL POWERS OF THE LIVING DEAD!



THAT NIGHT, THE DOORS AND WINDOWS OF EVERY HOUSE WERE TIGHTLY BOLTED AND SHUTTERED-- WHILE THE INHABITANTS CROUCHED WITHIN, IN TERROR OF THE THING THAT STALKED OUTSIDE!



THE TOWNS-
PEOPLE DE-
CIDED TO FLEE
FROM ASCHA AND
THE TERRIBLE
DEMON THAT
STALKED AT
NIGHT! BUT
ONE MAN, BLACK-
SMITH KASPAR
BLÜCHER,
STOPPED
THEM FROM
HEADLONG
FLIGHT--

WE MUST NOT ABANDON OUR HOMES
TO THE FURY OF THE UNDEAD! WE
CAN AND MUST ANSWER HUGO
ORMSBECK WITH AN EVEN
GREATER FURY! LEGENDS
TELL US THAT THE LIVING
DEAD STALK ONLY AT NIGHT,
AND ARE POWERLESS IN
THE LIGHT OF DAY! SO
NOW IS THE TIME TO
STRIKE! **FOLLOW ME--
TO THE GRAVEYARD!**

HEARTENED BY THE WORDS
OF THE FEARLESS BLACK-
SMITH, THE TOWNSPEOPLE
FOLLOWED HIM IN A GRIM
PROCESSION!

BE OF STRONG HEART--
AND LET US **DIG UP
HIS COFFIN!**



AFTER THE GRISLY EXHUMATION--

HIS BODY IS AS IT
WAS IN LIFE! TRULY
HE IS ONE OF THE
LIVING DEAD!

YES, BUT THE
LIVING DEAD
CAN BE KILLED
AGAIN-- BY A
**WOODEN STAKE
THROUGH THE
HEART!**



HOLD THAT
STAKE
STEADY!



**LOOK!
HE'S
BECOME--A
SKELETON!**

YES, HUGO ORMSECK WILL STALK
THE EARTH NO MORE-- FOR HE
IS NOW ONE OF THE **DEAD**
INSTEAD OF THE UNDEAD!



The
End



It's **NEW**...

IT'S SPINE-TINGLING ...IT'S Different!

SKELETON HAND

in **SECRETS OF THE SUPERNATURAL**

**CHILL AND THRILL TO STRANGE MYSTERIES FROM BEYOND
LIFE ITSELF, BROUGHT TO YOU IN THE STIRRING
PAGES OF A GREAT NEW COMICS MAGAZINE!
DON'T MISS**

SKELETON HAND

10¢ OK
ALL
STANDS.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED
BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF
MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

OF ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN, published Monthly at Canton, Ohio, for October
1st, 1952.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Best Syndicated Features, Inc., 1250 Camden Ave. S. W., Canton 6, Ohio; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Best Syndicated Features, Inc., 1250 Camden Ave. S. W., Canton 6, Ohio, B. W. Sangor, 7 West 81st Street, New York, N. Y.; Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per-

cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of September, 1952.

Nat C. Sherman, Notary Public, State of New York. (My commission expires March 30, 1953)

BOYS! GIRLS! MOTHERS! DADS!

Free! 221 STAMPS

ON THIS AMAZING OFFER

FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE!

Start NOW to Enjoy the HOBBY of Presidents and Kings With These Hundreds of Exciting Stamps

ALL DIFFERENT!

**GUARANTEED
WORTH OVER
\$5.00**
AT STANDARD CATALOG PRICES!



CHINA AIR MAIL—First stamp issued in China following Chinese currency.



STALIN—This forerunner of the Russian Revolution is a stamp of great value.



AFRICA—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.



MADAGASCAR—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.



UNITED NATIONS—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.



RUSSIA—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.



COSTA RICA—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.



TOGOLAND—This stamp is a rare find in the world of stamps.

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO START ENJOYING THIS MOST FASCINATING OF ALL HOBBIES

ALSO FREE! WHILE SUPPLY LASTS! Rare Set of 5 Anti-Communist Stamps



WITH Your 221 FREE STAMPS Will Come This Complete Stamp Collector's Outfit:

- 1 Famous "Adventure" Stamp Album—places for 4,000 stamps; 10x14.
- 2 "How To Collect Postage Stamps" Helpful book tells how to be an expert; many fascinating stories about stamps.
- 3 Magnifying Glass Use it to detect mistakes that make stamps valuable, and other important details on face of stamps.
- 4 Spectol Watermark Detector how to use.
- 5 250 Gummed Hinges, to attach stamps to album pages.

STAMP COLLECTING opens up new worlds of fun, profit, and adventure to you. Many successful people are stamp enthusiasts—presidents, kings, executives, movie stars, explorers, athletes, etc.

Now it's **EASY** for YOU to get started. Right WITH the 221 Free Stamps described above we will send you a Complete Stamp Collector's Outfit. If you decide to keep it, the price is **ONLY ONE DOLLAR**. But if you **DON'T** think it's the biggest bargain you ever saw, simply send it back—and we'll refund your dollar **AND YOUR POSTAGE, TOO!** Could any offer be fairer?

The Outfit contains the five items listed and shown at left. **EVERYTHING YOU NEED** to get started on this exciting hobby. You'll have fun and excitement starting a collection that can grow in value for the rest of your life!

EXAMINE KIT FOR 7 DAYS WITHOUT RISK!

Mail coupon and \$1 now. The complete Outfit—together with the 221 Free Stamps and other interesting offers—will be sent to you for a week's examination. Unless you're delighted with your bargain, return it—and we'll promptly refund your dollar and your postage, too!

You don't risk a single penny. You get a tremendous bargain, no mail coupon **RIGHT AWAY**. If coupon has been used, send \$1 **DIRECT** to:

LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. AAG-3 Littleton, N. H.



LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. AAG-3 Littleton, New Hampshire

Send me **FREE** the 221 foreign stamps—guaranteed all different—guaranteed Standard Catalog value over \$5.00. Also send me **FREE** the set of **ANTI-COMMUNIST STAMPS** while supply lasts. Also send for 7 days' examination the Complete Stamp Collector's KIT containing the 5 valuable items described at left.

I enclose \$1 as a deposit. After 7 days' examination, I may return everything (except the **ANTI-COMMUNIST STAMPS** which I may keep **FREE**) and you will return my dollar—and my postage. Or I will keep the kit and the 221 **FREE STAMPS**, and you may keep my dollar as payment in full.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____



"This photo proves I have gained unusual physical development through your methods."
—R. F., South Africa



"What a difference! Have put 3 1/2 inches on my chest (normal) and 2 1/2 inches expanded."
—F. S., New York



"I am sending you this snapshot showing my wonderful progress."
—W. G., New Jersey



"Gained 70 lbs. When I started your course I weighed 141. Now weigh 190."
—T. K., New York

I've turned thousands of fellows into

REAL HE-MEN

Let me prove I can do it for you!

All I Ask is 15 Minutes a Day —"Dynamic Tension" Will Do The Rest

From Weakling to a Real He-Man
You have changed me from a weakling to a real he-man. My chest has gone up 4 inches. I am a solid mass of muscle from head to foot. Friends and doctors I have met have noticed a great change and some have even failed to recognize me!"
—J. W., Montana

Gains 40 lbs.
"Worth 100 times what I paid. You not only made me a man but you added at least 30 years to my life. I feel now as if I had been born again! My weight was 110 lbs. and I got myself to 170 through your wonderful course."
—J. N. H., British West Indies

Makes Track Team—Called "Perfect Build"
"Am in the pink of condition and on the school Track Team. As I was getting into my gym suit the other day I heard a couple of men say, 'Look at that fellow. He has a perfect build.'"
—E. M., Conn.

Health 100%, Better
Through Dynamic Tension
The benefits are wonderful! The first week my arm increased one inch, my chest 1 1/2 inches, and my health is 100% better. Dynamic Tension is the best in the world."
—W. E., Ohio

I could fill page after page of this magazine with enthusiastic reports from men all over the entire world! But what you want to know is—"What can Atlas do for ME?"

Just give me 15 minutes a day of your spare time—right in the privacy of your own home. That's all I ask. Even in that short time I'll start giving RESULTS. The kind of results that you can SEE, FEEL, and MEASURE with a tape! And there's no cost to you if I fail!

I can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back, develop your whole muscular system, INSIDE and OUTSIDE! I can add inches to your chest, give you a vise-like grip, make those legs of yours lithe and powerful. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those inner organs, help you cram your body so full of pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality that you won't feel there's even "standing room" left for weakness and that lazy feeling! Before I get through with you I'll have your whole frame "measured" to a nice new, beautiful suit of muscle! And you'll be using the method which many great athletes use for keeping in condition—prize fighters, wrestlers, baseball and football players, etc.

Charles Atlas

Holder of Title,
"The World's
Most Perfectly
Developed Man."

What's My Secret?

"Dynamic Tension"! That's the ticket! The identical natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny, skinny-chested weakling I was at 17 to my present super-man physique!

Thousands of other fellows are becoming marvelous physical specimens—my way. I give you NO gadgets or contraptions to fool with. When you have learned to develop your Strength through "Dynamic Tension" you can laugh at artificial muscle-makers. You simply utilize the DOK-MANT muscle power in your own God-given body—watch it increase and multiply double-quick into real solid MUSCLE.

My Illustrated Book is Yours—Not for \$1.00 or 10¢—But FREE!

Send NOW for my famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." It has 48 pages, and is packed from cover to cover with actual photographs and valuable advice. It shows what "Dynamic Tension" can do, answers many vital questions that may be puzzling you. Page by page it shows what I can do for YOU.

any fellow who wants a better build. Yes! It doesn't cost you a penny—I'll send you a copy absolutely FREE. Just clanking through it will open your eyes. In fact, it may be the turning point in your whole life! So don't put it off another minute! Send the coupon to me personally:

Charles Atlas, Dept. 23, 115 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y.



CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 23,
115 E. 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

Send me—absolutely FREE—a copy of your famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength"—32 pages, crammed with actual photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice to every man who wants a better build. I understand this book is mine to keep and sending for it does not obligate me in any way

Name..... Age.....
(Please print or write plainly)

Address.....

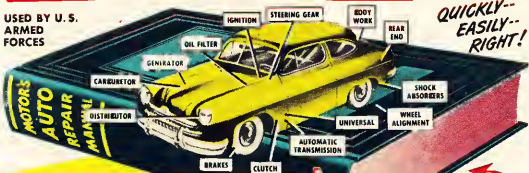
City..... Zone No..... State.....

☐ If you are under 14 years of age, please check here for Booklet A

Yes, this book is a real prize for

HOW TO FIX ANY PART OF ANY CAR

USED BY U. S.
ARMED
FORCES



QUICKLY--
EASILY--
RIGHT!

NOW—Whether You're a Beginner or an Expert Mechanic—You Can "Breeze Through" ANY AUTO REPAIR JOB! MOTOR'S BIG BRAND-NEW AUTO REPAIR MANUAL Shows You HOW—With 2400 PICTURES AND SIMPLE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS.

Free 7-DAY TRIAL
Return and Pay Nothing
If Not Satisfied!

COVERS EVERY JOB ON EVERY CAR BUILT FROM 1935 THRU 1952

YES, it's easy as A-B-C to do any "fix-it" job on any car whether it's a simple carburetor adjustment or a complete overhaul. Just look up the job in the index of MOTOR'S New AUTO REPAIR MANUAL. Turn to pages covering job. Follow the clear, illustrated step-by-step instructions. Presto—the job is done!

No guesswork! MOTOR'S Manual takes nothing for granted. Tells you where to start. What tools to use. Then it leads you easily and quickly through the entire operation!

Over TWO THOUSAND Pictures! So Complete, So Simple, You CAN'T Go Wrong!

NEW REVISED 1952 Edition covers everything you need to know to repair 851 car models. 780 giant pages, 2400 "This-Is-How" pictures. Over 200 "Quick-Check" charts—more than 38,000 essential repair specifications. Over 225,000 service and repair facts. Instructions and pictures are so clear you can't go wrong!

Even a green beginner mechanic can do a good job with this giant manual before him. And if you're a top-notch

mechanic, you'll find short-cuts that will amaze you. No wonder this guide is used by the U. S. Army and Navy! No wonder hundreds of thousands of men call it the "Auto Repair Men's Bible!"

Meet or Over 170 Official Shop Manuals

Engineers from every automobile plant in America worked out these time-saving procedures for their own motor car lines. Now the editors of MOTOR have gathered together this wealth of "Know-How" from over 170 Official Factory Shop Manuals, "boiled it down"

Some FREE Offer On MOTOR'S Truck and Tractor Manual
Cover EVERY job on EVERY popular make available truck, tractor made from 1936 thru 1952. FREE 5 Day Trial. Check proper box in coupon

into crystal-clear terms in one handy indexed book!

Try Book FREE 7 Days
SEND NO MONEY! Just mail coupon! When the postman brings book, pay him nothing. First, make it show you what it's got! Unless you agree this is the greatest time-saver and work-saver you've ever seen—return book in 7 days and pay nothing. Mail coupon today! Address: MOTOR Book Dept., Desk 903, 250 West 35th St., N. Y. 19, N. Y.

Covers 851 Models—All These Makes

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Buick | Cadillac | Chrysler | De Soto | Dodge | Ford | Fraser |
| Henry J. | Hudson | Kaiser | Lafayette | Le Sella | Lincoln | Mercury |
| Nash | Pontiac | Reo | Studebaker | Terrebonne | Willis | |



Many Letters of Praise from Users

"MOTOR'S Manual paid for itself on the first 2 jobs, and saved me valuable time by eliminating guesswork!"
—W. SCHROF, Ohio.

He Does Job in 30 Min.—Fixed motor on belt & day. With your Manual I did it in 30 minutes."
—G. AUBREY, Tenn.



MAIL COUPON NOW FOR 7-DAY FREE TRIAL

MOTOR BOOK DEPT.
Desk 903, 250 W. 35th St., New York 19, N. Y.
Send me at once (check box opposite book you want):

☐ MOTOR'S NEW AUTO REPAIR MANUAL. If O.K., I will permit \$1 to 7 days (plus \$10 delivery charge). \$1 monthly for 2 months and a final payment of \$10 per month, either way I will return the book prepaid in 7 days. (Foreign price, retail \$1 each with order.)

☐ MOTOR'S NEW TRUCK & TRACTOR REPAIR MANUAL. If O.K., I will permit \$2 to 7 days, and \$2 monthly for 3 months, plus \$10 delivery charge with final payment. Otherwise I will return book prepaid in 7 days. (Foreign price, retail \$10 each with order.)

Print Name.....Age.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

☐ Check box and save \$10 shipping charge by enclosing WITH coupon return payment of \$10 for Auto Repair Manual, for \$10 for Truck and Tractor Repair Manual. Same 7-day return-refund privilege applies.